

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-01 MC-02

TRSE-00 EB-07 /080 W

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P R 231402Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4150

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CSAF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 6267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, KE, IR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRANSFER OF IRANIAN F-5 AIRCRAFT
TO KENYA

REF: TEHRAN 6838 (NOTAL)

1. AS I READ REFTTEL, GOI HAS MADE FIRM DECISION NOT TO
TRANSFER TEN FMS F-5A'S AND TWO F-5B'S TO KENYA. UNLESS
WE THINK WE CAN CHANGE SHAH'S MIND OR UNLESS
EQUIVALENT AIRCRAFT ARE AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE, IT WOULD
APPEAR THAT WE ARE NOT REPEAT NOT GOING TO BE IN POSITION
TO OFFER F-5A/B PACKAGE TO GOK EVEN IF AGE AND SPARE PARTS
PROBLEMS RESOLVED. IF THIS INDEED CASE, I WOULD PREFER
TO BREAK NEWS TO KENYANS NOW SO THAT THEY MAY BEGIN REVIS-
ING THEIR DEFENSE PLANNING ACCORDINGLY. WE SHOULD BEAR
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IN MIND THAT, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID

PROMISES, KENYANS HAVE BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION FOR MORE THAN THREE MONTHS THAT F-5A/B SQUADRON NOT ONLY REAL POSSIBILITY BUT ALSO QUICKEST WAY OF REDRESSING KENYAN AIR INFERIORITY VIS-A-VIS RPT VIS-A-VIS SOMALIA AND UGANDA.

2. I WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE ASAP EITHER (A) INSTRUCTIONS TO TELL GOK F-5A/B DEAL IS OFF OR (B) INTERIM GUIDANCE ON STATUS AND TIMING OF IRANIAN OR ALTERNATE F-5A/B PACKAGE INCLUDING INFORMATION WHICH I CAN RELAY TO KENYA DEFENCE MINISTRY. IF INSTRUCTED TO TELL THEM WE UNABLE OFFER F-5A/B DEAL, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO AVOID POINTING FINGER AT SHAH (WHICH WOULD ONLY INFURIATE PRESIDENT KENYATTA) AND GIVE GENERALIZED EXPLANATION THAT SOME OF PROBLEMS MENTIONED BY USAF TEAM WHILE HERE IN JUNE COULD NOT BE RESOLVED.

3. PLEASE CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR MARSHALL IN WASHINGTON BEFORE REPLYING TO THIS MESSAGE.
LINDSTROM

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: MASS, JO, KE, IR, US
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